

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY PA:BLINEBERRY:BL

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S/S- MR. BRIDGES

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UNCLAS STATE 236091 TOSEC 270622

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, HEADED "WAITING FOR IAN SMITH."

2. IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS PERSUADED PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH THAT "THE GAME IS UP" IN RHODESIA; AND THAT THE WHITE MINORITY REGIME IN SALISBURY IS ABOUT TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF BLACK RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS?

3. PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA QUOTES MR. KISSINGER TO THE EFFECT THAT, IN THEIR TALKS IN SOUTH AFRICA, MR. SMITH CONCEDED THE INEVITABILITY OF RAPID MOVEMENT TOWARD MAJORITY RULE AND WOULD INDICATE HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACQUIESCENCE IN A BROADCAST TOMORROW. PRESIDENT MOBUTO OF ZAIRE SAYS MR. KISSINGER ALSO CONVINCED HIM THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA IS NOW IN SIGHT. REPORTERS OF THE SECRETARY'S PLANE HAVE THE SAME STRONG

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IMPRESSION.

4. MR. SMITH HIMSELF IS MORE ORACULAR: "WE HAVE STILL GOT A LOT OF FIGHT BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE WANT TO BE STUPID; WE HAVE GOT TO FACE UP TO REALITIES BUT I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT." THE "REALITIES" ARE STARK: RHODESIA'S BLACKS OUTNUMBER THE WHITES BY ABOUT 24 TO ONE; GUERRILLA WAR, WAGED BY BLACK RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS, IS STEADILY EXPANDING AND ESCALATING; AND NOT EVEN SOUTH AFRICA'S WHITE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMALLY RECOGNIZED MR. SMITH'S PARIAH REGIME.

5. BUT THESE FACTS HAVE LONG BEEN EVIDENT; AND THAT IS WHY ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH WHITE RHODESIAN POLITICS AND MR. SMITH'S NEGOTIATING RECORD WILL DELAY REJOICING UNTIL THERE IS SOLID EVIDENCE THAT THE DOUR DISSEMBLER AND HIS PARTY WILL NOT BACK AWAY FROM THE PACT HE EVIDENTLY MADE WITH MR. KISSINGER. EVEN IF MR. SMITH SHOULD RESIGN, THE PATH TO NEGOTIATING A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE MIGHT BE BLOCKED BY COLLEAGUES.

6. IF MR. KISSINGER CAN ARREST THE SLIDE TOWARD RACIAL WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY ARRANGING A PEACEFUL EVOLUTION IN RHODESIA, ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH BLACKS AND WHITES, HE WILL REGAIN AT A STROKE HIS REPUTATION AS NEGOTIATOR AND PEACEMAKER EXTRAORDINARY. BUT A MEASURED JUDGMENT AS TO THE SUCCESS OF HIS EFFORTS CANNOT BE DELIVERED FOR SOME TIME, WHATEVER MR. SMITH MAY SAY IN HIS BROADCAST. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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